

# the condition of education 2007



## INDICATOR 2

### Enrollment in Early Childhood Education Programs

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2007*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2007*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2007064>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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# Preprimary Education

## Enrollment in Early Childhood Education Programs

*The percentage of children ages 3–5 who attended center-based early childhood care and education programs rose from 53 percent in 1991 to 60 percent in 1999 and then decreased to 57 percent in 2005.*

Center-based early childhood care and education programs include day care centers, Head Start programs, preschool, nursery school, prekindergarten, and other early childhood programs. The percentage of preprimary children ages 3–5 who attended center-based programs increased from 53 percent in 1991 to 60 percent in 1999, before decreasing to 57 percent in 2005 (see supplemental table 2-1).

Some groups of young children had higher rates of participation in center-based programs than others during this period. For example, in each of the years observed, a greater percentage of nonpoor children ages 3–5 participated in center-based programs than did poor children. The difference in rates of participation between children from poor and nonpoor families was 13 percentage points in 2005 (47 vs. 60 percent).

In addition, for all years observed, a greater percentage of Black and White children than Hispanic children participated in center-based programs. In 2005, some 66 percent of Black children and 59 percent of White children participated in such programs, compared with 43

percent of Hispanic children. White and Hispanic nonpoor children were more likely than their poor peers to participate in center-based programs in 2005, while no measurable difference was found between poor and nonpoor Black children.

Differences were also found by child's age, mother's education, and mother's employment for all years observed. Enrollment rates in center-based programs were higher for older children (ages 4 and 5) than for children age 3. Sixty-nine percent of children ages 4 and 5 attended such programs, compared with 43 percent of children age 3. For all years observed, a greater percentage of children whose mothers had a bachelor's or higher degree participated in center-based programs than did children whose mothers had some college, a high school diploma, or less than a high school diploma. For all years observed, a greater percentage of children with mothers who worked (either full time or part time) were enrolled in center-based programs than were children with mothers who were not in the labor force.

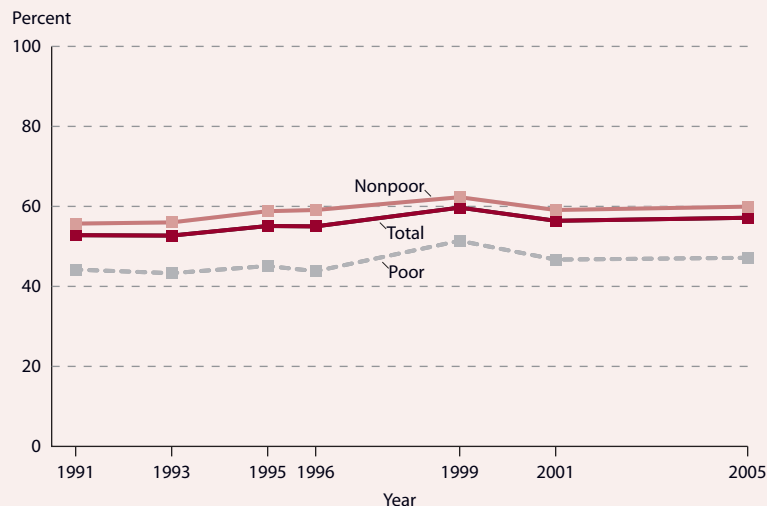
NOTE: Estimates are based on children who have not yet entered kindergarten. *Poor* is defined to include families below the poverty threshold; *nonpoor* is defined to include families whose incomes are at or above the poverty threshold. See supplemental note 1 for more information on poverty.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Education Survey of the 1991 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), School Readiness Survey of the 1993 NHES, Parent and Family Involvement in Education/Civic Involvement Survey of the 1996 NHES, Parent Survey of the 1999 NHES, and Early Childhood Program Participation Survey of the 1995, 2001, and 2005 NHES.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
Supplemental Notes 1, 3  
Supplemental Table 2-1  
NCES 2006-039

**PREPRIMARY ENROLLMENT: Percentage of preprimary children ages 3–5 who were enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by poverty status: Various years, 1991–2005**



## Enrollment in Early Childhood Education Programs

**Table 2-1. Percentage of preprimary children ages 3–5 who were enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by child and family characteristics: Various years, 1991–2005**

Child or family characteristic	1991	1993	1995	1996	1999	2001	2005
<b>Total</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>57</b>
Age							
3	42	40	41	42	46	43	43
4	60	62	65	63	70	66	69
5	64	66	75	73	77	73	69
Sex							
Male	52	53	55	55	61	54	60
Female	53	53	55	55	59	59	55
Race/ethnicity <sup>1</sup>							
White	54	54	57	57	60	59	59
Black	58	57	60	65	73	64	66
Hispanic	39	43	37	39	44	40	43
Poverty status <sup>2</sup>							
Poor	44	43	45	44	51	47	47
Nonpoor	56	56	59	59	62	59	60
Poverty status and race/ethnicity							
Poor							
White	41	40	43	39	43	46	45
Black	55	53	55	61	72	60	65
Hispanic	34	37	30	33	41	36	36
Nonpoor							
White	56	56	60	60	63	61	61
Black	62	63	66	69	74	66	68
Hispanic	42	48	44	45	47	42	48
Family type							
Two-parent household	54	52	55	54	59	57	57
One-parent or guardian-only household	50	54	56	58	62	56	58
Mother's education							
Less than high school	32	33	35	37	40	38	35
High school diploma or equivalent	46	43	48	49	52	47	49
Some college, including vocational/technical	60	60	57	58	63	62	56
Bachelor's degree or higher	72	73	75	73	74	70	73
Mother's employment							
35 hours or more per week	59	61	60	63	65	63	64
Less than 35 hours per week	58	57	62	64	64	61	61
Looking for work	43	48	52	47	55	47	42
Not in labor force	45	44	47	43	52	47	50

<sup>1</sup> Race categories exclude persons of Hispanic ethnicity. Included in the total, but not shown separately, are children from other racial/ethnic groups.

<sup>2</sup> *Poor* is defined to include families below the poverty threshold; *nonpoor* is defined to include families whose incomes are at or above the poverty threshold. See *supplemental note 1* for more information on poverty.

NOTE: Estimates are based on children who have not yet entered kindergarten. Center-based programs include day care centers, Head Start programs, preschool, nursery school, prekindergarten, and other early childhood programs. Children without mothers in the home are not included in estimates for mother's education or mother's employment.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Education Survey of the 1991 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), School Readiness Survey of the 1993 NHES, Parent and Family Involvement in Education/Civic Involvement Survey of the 1996 NHES, Parent Survey of the 1999 NHES, and Early Childhood Program Participation Survey of the 1995, 2001, and 2005 NHES.

## Enrollment in Early Childhood Education Programs

**Table S2-1. Standard errors for the percentage of preprimary children ages 3–5 who were enrolled in center-based early childhood care and education programs, by child and family characteristics: Various years, 1991–2005**

Child or family characteristic	1991	1993	1995	1996	1999	2001	2005
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>
Age							
3	1.4	1.2	1.6	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.7
4	1.0	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.2	1.3	1.4
5	2.1	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.4	2.7	3.5
Sex							
Male	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.3	1.5
Female	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.6
Race/ethnicity							
White	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.2	0.8	0.9	1.3
Black	2.5	2.1	3.3	2.7	2.4	2.9	3.4
Hispanic	2.2	2.1	2.2	2.6	2.2	1.9	2.1
Poverty status							
Poor	1.8	1.8	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.3	2.7
Nonpoor	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.1
Poverty status and race/ethnicity							
Poor							
White	2.2	2.8	3.8	4.0	3.9	4.1	5.8
Black	3.6	3.2	4.4	3.9	4.1	5.4	5.9
Hispanic	3.4	3.7	3.4	4.3	3.6	3.8	3.7
Nonpoor							
White	1.1	1.1	1.4	1.3	0.9	1.0	1.4
Black	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.7	2.7	3.3	4.8
Hispanic	2.7	2.6	2.9	3.5	2.5	2.1	2.8
Family type							
Two-parent household	0.9	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0
One-parent or guardian-only household	2.1	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.7	2.3	2.8
Mother's education							
Less than high school	2.1	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.9
High school diploma or equivalent	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.5	2.1
Some college, including vocational/technical	1.4	1.6	1.8	1.7	1.6	1.8	2.1
Bachelor's degree or higher	1.6	1.4	2.2	1.8	1.4	1.9	1.7
Mother's employment							
35 hours or more per week	1.3	1.3	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.5	1.8
Less than 35 hours per week	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.6	1.9	1.9	2.3
Looking for work	3.4	3.5	3.9	4.6	4.3	5.4	5.5
Not in labor force	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.7

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Education Survey of the 1991 National Household Education Surveys Program (NHES), School Readiness Survey of the 1993 NHES, Parent and Family Involvement in Education/Civic Involvement Survey of the 1996 NHES, Parent Survey of the 1999 NHES, and Early Childhood Program Participation Survey of the 1995, 2001, and 2005 NHES.